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FISHING FUN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

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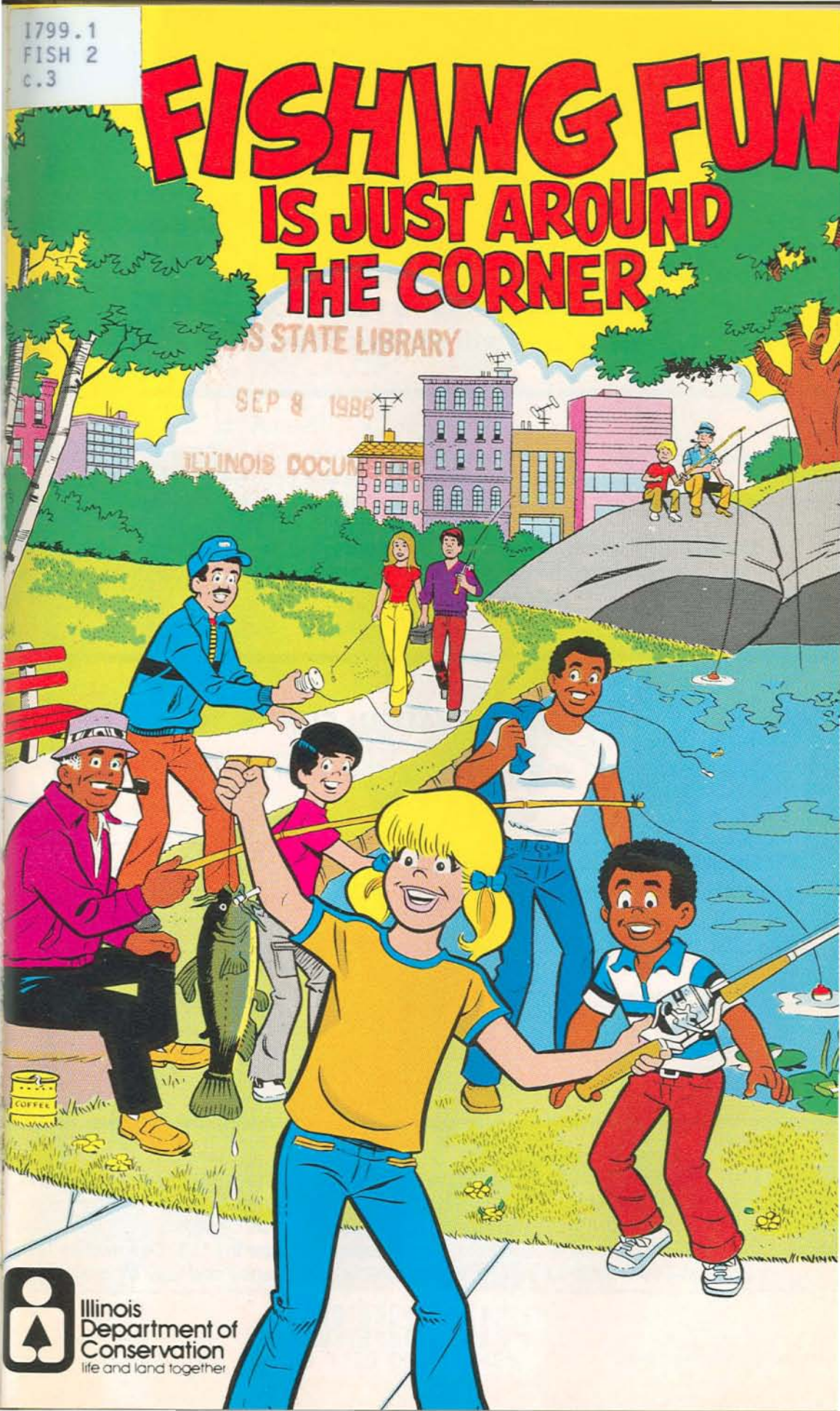

Illinois
Department of
Conservation
life and land together

Conservation means wisely using our fish, forest and wildlife resources so that we will always have them to use.

This publication is designed to help teach students how and where fish live, and to teach them how to fish responsibly. It can be used for pre-site and post-site fishing instruction for urban fishing programs, fishing clinics, camps, school classes and special workshops.

The Illinois Department of Conservation is indebted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for developing the original material and allowing us to use it as the basis for our own edition of *Fishing Fun.*

CONSERVATION FUN

How many words can you make from the letters in **Conservation**?

1. _____	6. _____	11. _____
2. _____	7. _____	12. _____
3. _____	8. _____	13. _____
4. _____	9. _____	14. _____
5. _____	10. _____	15. _____

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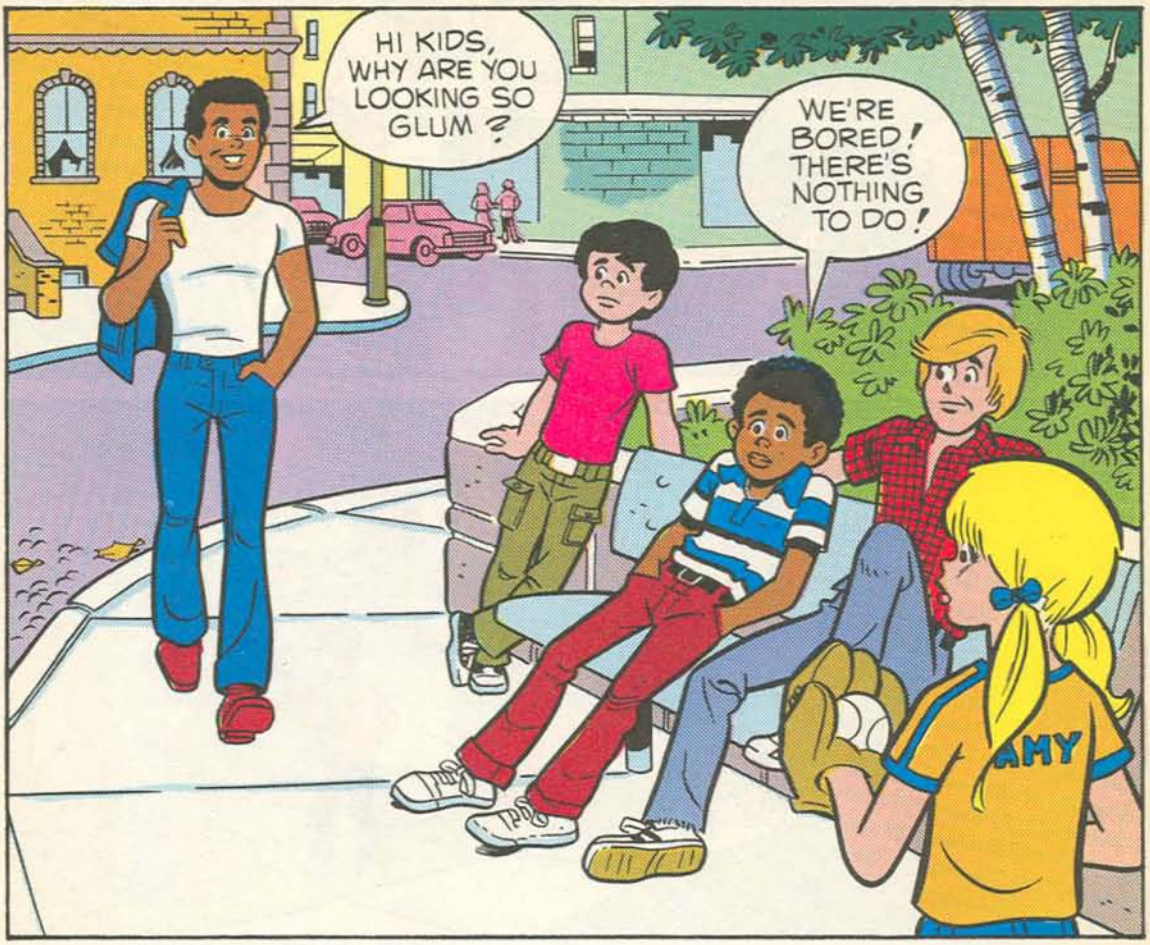

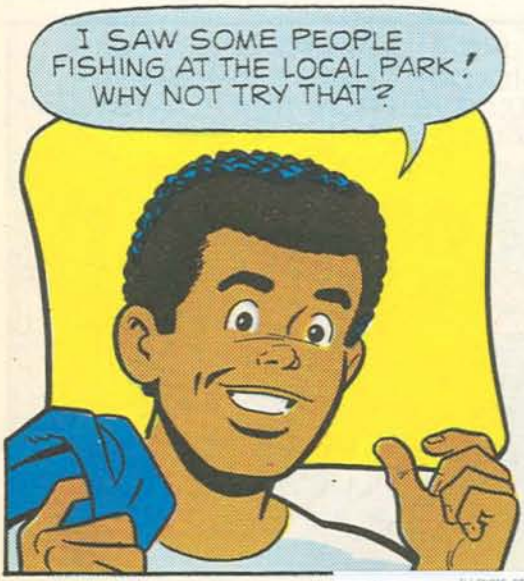

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LET'S TAKE A LOOK-- MAYBE WE CAN PICK UP SOME POINTERS FROM THE PEOPLE FISHING!
FISHERMEN ARE USUALLY FRIENDLY! THEY PROBABLY WON'T MIND EXPLAINING WHAT THEY'RE DOING!
HEY! LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE FISHING!
THE WATER HAS A GREENISH COLOR ---IS IT OKAY?
SURE, I LEARNED ABOUT THAT IN BIOLOGY CLASS! THE GREEN COLOR IS FROM TINY PLANTS CALLED ALGAE THAT LIVE IN THE WATER!
2

THE TINY PLANTS ARE EATEN BY SMALL ANIMALS, WHICH IN TURN ARE EATEN BY FISH!
LET'S ASK THOSE FISHERMEN IF THEY'RE HAVING ANY LUCK!
HI!
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
I'M DOING GREAT! THIS CAN RIG IS WORKING BETTER THAN MY BUDDY'S CANE POLE!
WHY? ARE YOU USING DIFFERENT BAIT?
3

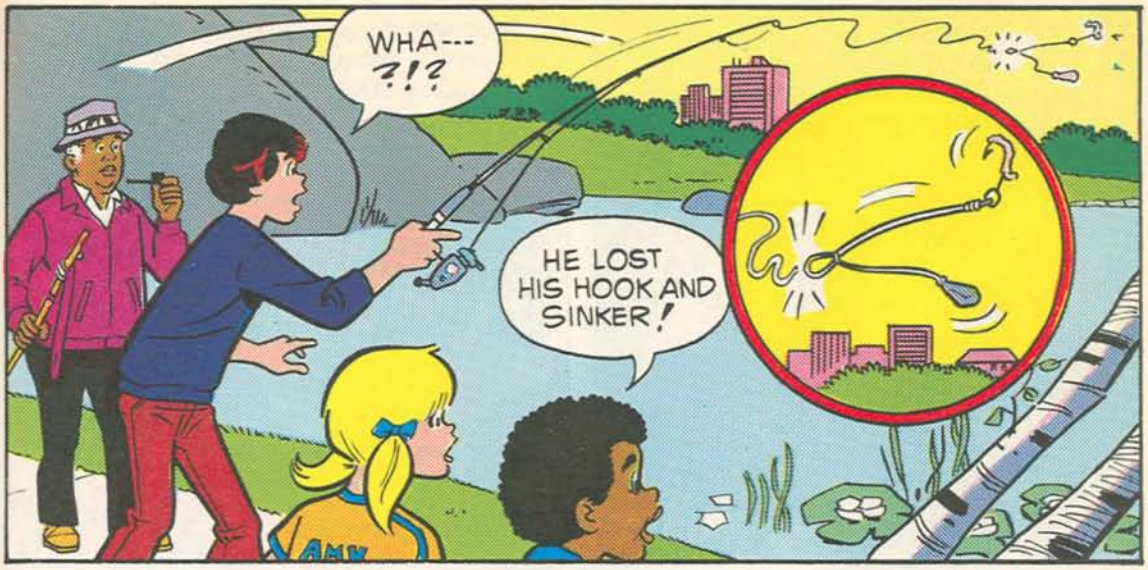
NO, WE HAVE THE SAME BAIT, BUT WITH THE CAN RIG I CAN CAST MY BAIT INTO THE ROCK'S SHADOW!
WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?
FISH ARE VERY SKITTISH--- THEY LIKE HIDING PLACES!
ANY PLACE THAT PROVIDES SHELTER IS A GOOD PLACE TO FISH!
WHAT'S THAT RED AND WHITE THING AT THE END OF YOUR LINE?
AMY
IT'S A BOBBER-- IT FLOATS AND KEEPS THE BAIT AT THE RIGHT DEPTH!
4

WHAT DEPTH IS BEST?
AMY
YOU HAVE TO TRY DIFFERENT DEPTHS UNTIL YOU FIND ONE WHERE THE FISH ARE BITING!
THE BOBBER ALSO SHOWS YOU'VE GOT A BITE WHEN IT TWITCHES AND DIPS!
HOW ABOUT BAIT? WHAT'S BEST TO USE?
WORMS ARE THE BEST ALL-AROUND BAIT! WE FOUND OURS UNDER SOME ROTTING LEAVES!
COFFEE
BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS YOU CAN USE— LIKE CRICKETS, GRUBS, MINNOWS, DOUGHBALLS, CHEESE, BITS OF RAW MEAT OR FISH, AND EVEN KERNELS OF CORN!
5

HEY!
I'VE GOT A BITE!
WOW! LOOK AT THAT FISH!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A BLUEGILL – ONE OF THE SUNFISH FAMILY! IT'S VERY PRETTY, BUT YOU HAVE TO HOLD IT CAREFULLY!
MANY FISH HAVE SHARP SPINES!
SHARP SPINES
SHARP SPINES
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THE FISH?
YOU BET! I'M GOING TO HAVE HIM FOR SUPPER!
6

YOU MEAN THEY'RE GOOD TO EAT?
ICE CHEST
SURE, THEY'RE DELICIOUS--- AND FISH FROM THIS POND WERE TESTED AND EVERYTHING CHECKED OUT OKAY!
MOST PONDS HAVE FISH, AND THEY'RE USUALLY FINE TO EAT! BUT CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION AGENCY IF YOU'RE NOT SURE!
HEY, LOOK! HERE COME A COUPLE OF OTHER FISHERMEN!
HI!
HI! WE HEARD THE FISHING WAS PRETTY GOOD HERE--- THOUGHT WE'D TRY OUR LUCK!

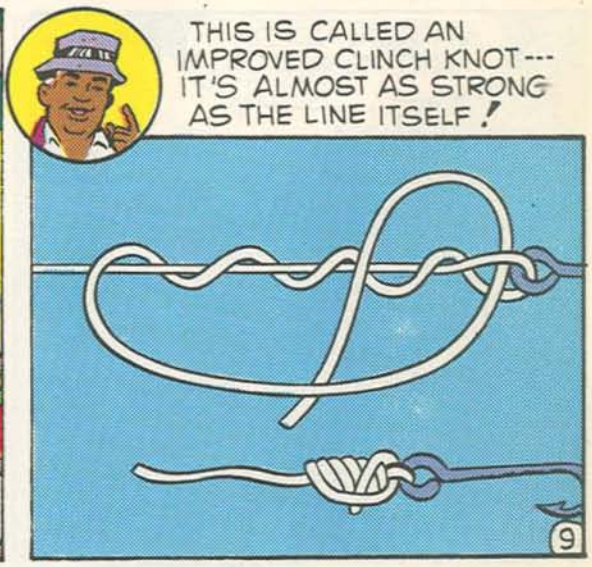
PLENTY OF ROOM FOR EVERYONE! SAY, WHAT KIND OF OUTFIT DO YOU HAVE THERE?
IT'S A SPINNING OUTFIT! WITH IT I CAN CAST MY BAIT OVER A VERY WIDE AREA! IT'S EASY TO USE AND NOT EXPENSIVE!
THE LINE IS WOUND AROUND THE SPOOL!
SPOOL
TO GET READY TO CAST, YOU FLIP THE BAIL OVER AND HOLD THE LINE WITH YOUR FINGER TIP!
BAIL
THE ROD PROVIDES THE POWER TO FLING THE BAIT! YOU MUST LET GO WITH YOUR FINGER AT THE RIGHT MOMENT TO RELEASE THE LINE!
AMY
8


WHA---
?!?
HE LOST HIS HOOK AND SINKER!

LOOKS LIKE YOU TIED THE WRONG KNOT! WHAT KIND DID YOU USE?

WHY, NOTHING SPECIAL--- JUST A COUPLE OF OVERHAND KNOTS!

NO WONDER--- YOU NEED A SPECIAL KNOT THAT WON'T SLIP FOR FISHING! LOOK, I'LL SHOW YOU---


THIS IS CALLED AN IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT--- IT'S ALMOST AS STRONG AS THE LINE ITSELF!

TYING THIS KNOT ISN'T TOO HARD!
RIGHT! AND IT WILL SAVE YOU FROM LOSING A LOT OF FISH AND TACKLE!
THAT'S BETTER! NOW YOU'VE GOT IT!
AMY
WHAT KIND OF RIG IS THAT?
IT'S CALLED A SPINCAST OUTFIT!

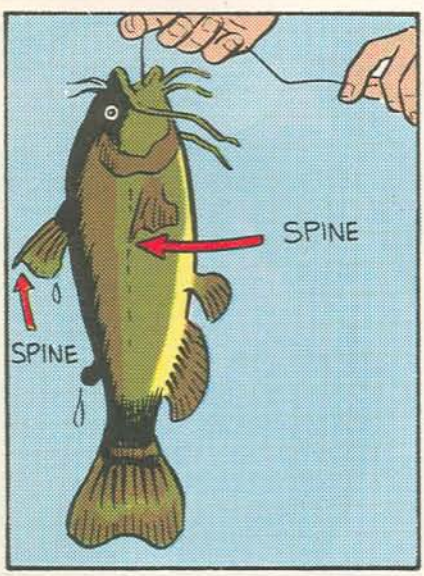
IT WORKS THE SAME WAY AS THE SPINNING REEL EXCEPT IT'S CONTROLLED BY A PUSH-BUTTON I WORK WITH MY THUMB!
I PUSH THE BUTTON JUST BEFORE I CAST! WHEN I RELEASE THE BUTTON, THE LINE COMES OFF THE SPOOL!
IT'S THE SIMPLEST REEL TO LEARN TO USE---
---AND A COMPLETE OUTFIT COSTS NO MORE THAN A BASEBALL GLOVE OR A BASKETBALL!
AMY
I GOT ONE!
THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG!
IT FEELS LIKE A BIG ONE!
11

KEEP THE ROD TIP HIGH AND DON'T GIVE ANY SLACK!
AMY

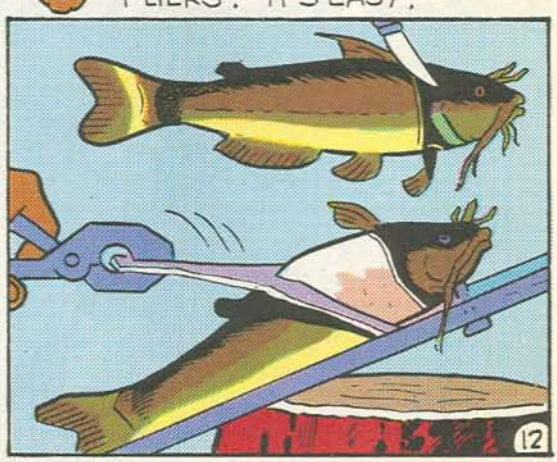
OTHERWISE THE FISH MAY BREAK THE LINE OR SPIT OUT THE HOOK!

WHAT KIND OF FISH IS THAT?

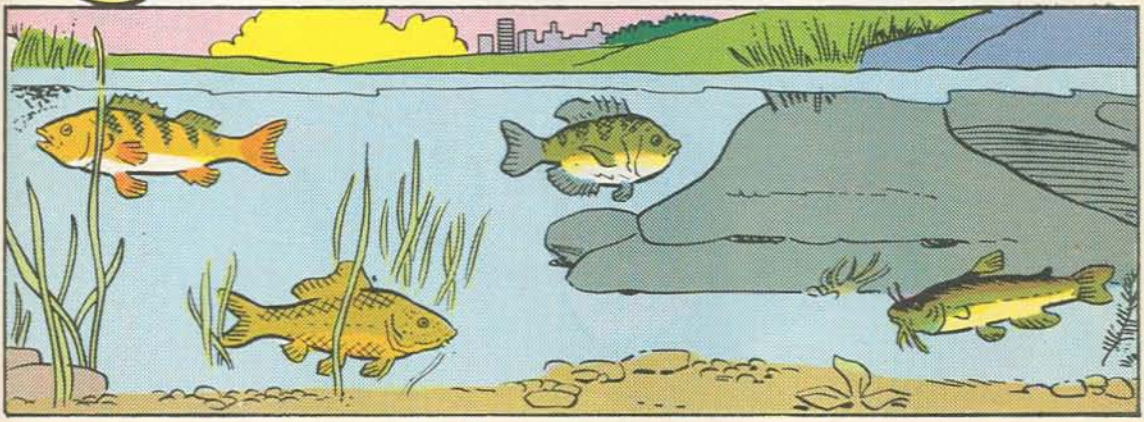
IT'S A BULLHEAD --- A MEMBER OF THE CATFISH FAMILY!

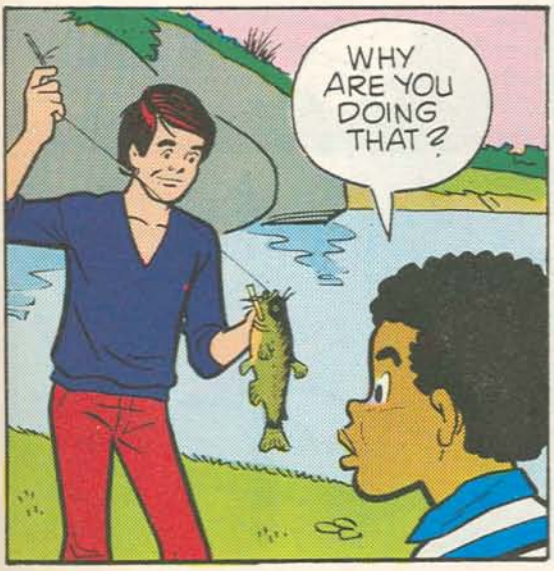

SPINE
SPINE

BULLHEADS ARE DELICIOUS! TO SKIN THEM, ALL YOU NEED ARE A SHARP KNIFE AND PLIERS! IT'S EASY!



TO CATCH FISH THAT LIVE ON THE BOTTOM, LIKE BULLHEADS AND CARP, YOU USE A SINKER TO KEEP THE BAIT ON THE BOTTOM! A BOBBER IS USED FOR FISH THAT LIVE OFF THE BOTTOM, LIKE PERCH AND BLUEGILLS!



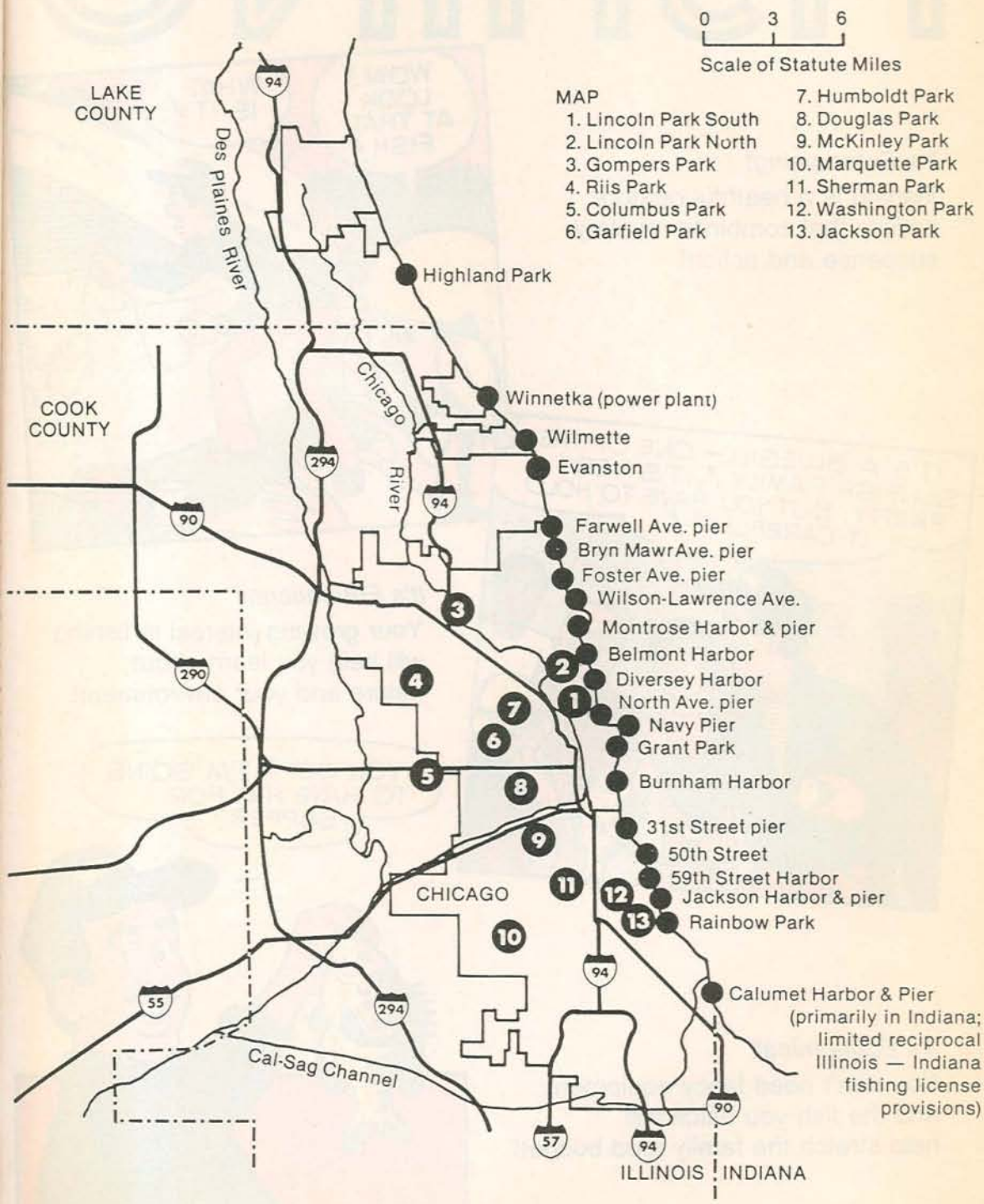


LET'S GIVE THE KIDS A CHANCE TO FISH!
GEE, CAN I?
THIS SURE IS FUN!
IT MUST BE A BIG CARP!
IT FEELS LIKE A WHALE!

WHEW! HE PUT UP SOME FIGHT!
NICE JOB! LANDING A BIG CARP LIKE THAT TAKES A LOT OF SKILL!
CARP PROVIDE TROPHY FISHING IN MANY PONDS!
LATER···
BOY, THAT WAS GREAT!!
THANKS FOR LETTING US USE YOUR FISHING OUTFITS!
I'M GOING TO GET MYSELF A FISHING POLE TOMORROW!
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE FOR A FISH FRY – MY WIFE AND I CAN COOK UP THESE BEAUTIES IN NO TIME!
HI, HON! LOOK WHAT THE KIDS CAUGHT IN THE PARK POND!
AMY
15

IT'S REALLY EASY TO PREPARE THESE FISH!
YEAH--- JUST ROLL THEM IN SOME FLOUR OR CORN MEAL AND SEASONING AND FRY THEM UNTIL THEY'RE GOLDEN BROWN!
HERE IT IS, KIDS!
MMMMM SMELLS GREAT!!
THESE FISH TASTE TERRIFIC!!!
WE'RE GOING BACK TO CATCH SOME MORE TOMORROW!!!
THESE KIDS HAVE DISCOVERED A GREAT NEW WAY TO ENJOY THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS! FISHING'S FUN FOR EVERYONE AND IT'S RIGHT IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD!
END

URBAN FISHING WITHIN THE CHICAGO AREA



Get Hooked On FISHING

It's Entertaining!

Fishing is a heathful outdoor activity that combines mystery suspense and action!

It's Educational!

Your growing interest in fishing will help you learn about nature and your environment!

It's Economical!

You don't need fancy equipment . . . and the fish you catch will help stretch the family food budget!